

The Point

Issue 10

Week of April 28, 1999

Fitchburg State College

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Sorority sisters seesaw for smiles

by AnneMarie Donahue

Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters started seesawing for sick children at 8 a.m. on April 22, and vowed not to stop for 40 hours. All proceeds from the teeter-tottering tournament, which took place on the Alumni Quadrangle, were earmarked for the Robbie Page Memorial Foundation.

The foundations helps provide funding for three wings in two hospitals.

The sisters have been teeter-tottering for this foundation for the past four years.



The sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma are up for fund-raising.

'Visions' takes graphic approach

"Visions," a display of works by communications and media students at FSC, is on view April 28 through June 30 in the Campus Center Art Gallery.

An opening reception is scheduled for April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the gallery. Student work in film and video will be screened at 8 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall.

The exhibit includes works of graphic design, photography, film, video and technical communications.

Inclusion in the exhibit is an honor, with only the best student work accepted. The program is produced and organized by students under faculty supervision.

A bright future for sports gamblers? Don't bet on it

by Brian Bates

It happens on college campuses everywhere. It has been blamed for causing depression, poverty and even suicide. It has made people rich, and it has ruined lives.

It is sports gambling, and it can become an addiction, like smoking or drinking. It's easy to get hooked, and it can be hard to quit.

Bill Davidson, a junior at the UMass Amherst, knows how easy it is to get caught up in sports gambling.

"I started when I was a sophomore in high school," Davidson said. "I am a sports maniac, to the point of watching sports every night. I figured if I liked sports so much, why not try to make a little money?"

Davidson said he began by betting on just one or two college basketball or football games a week. That simple idea of trying to make a little money turned into something more than he ever expected, however.

"One bet turned into another, and another," Davidson said. "If I won a bet, then I thought I was on a hot streak, and I would bet some more. If I lost, I would need to bet another three games



Professional sports such as baseball are more than a game for gamblers.

in order to try and pay off my debt."

Davidson estimates that his obsession with gambling ended up costing him more than \$9,000. At his lowest point, he said, he opened a credit-card account to pay his debt back.

"I finally had to go to my parents to borrow money, which they were not

happy about," he said. "I have finally stopped gambling, but not until I received help from Gamblers Anonymous."

Unfortunately, Davidson's story is not unusual.

"College students are one of the highest populations who have a problem with gambling," said Dana Forman, public relations director for the Mass. Council on Compulsive Gambling in Boston.

"Gambling is a fairly complex issue, and statistics can be tricky," he said, but the statistics he cited from a study from Harvard's Medical School Division on Addictions were startling. The study divided gamblers into three categories in terms

of severity: social gamblers, problem gamblers and compulsive gamblers.

In the general adult population, the study said, 5.5 percent will have a problem with gambling in their lifetime, and about 2 percent will go on to become

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Symposium tackles such tough issues, it's criminal

Date rape, serial killing and sex offenses will be among the issues discussed as part of the Criminal Justice Symposium on May 13 at 8 p.m. in the Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Graduate students and faculty members from the college's criminal justice master's degree program will make presentations at the event, which is open to the public free of charge.

The presentations will include:

"Date Rape: Justice for All?" by Lisa Lane, domestic violence liaison for the Leominster Police Department. A 1998 graduate of the college's criminal justice master's program, she is the co-chair for the North Worcester County Domestic Violence Roundtable. She developed Leominster's Domestic Violence program.

"Creating Monsters: The Construction of the Serial Killer" by Jonathan Noone, a police detective for

the city of Lowell. Noone, who also graduated from the criminal justice program last year, will look at the portrayal of serial killers as cultural icons.

"Sex Offenders in Our Midst: The Legal Implications" by Professor Elizabeth Walsh. Walsh, who coordinates the undergraduate criminal justice program at the college, has practiced law as a prosecutor and as a criminal defense attorney.

She will examine the new laws enacted to protect communities from sex offenders.

The FSC criminal justice master's program offers concentrations in professional studies, individualized studies, management, organizational studies and intervention studies, with specialties in forensic case work, child protection, counseling and substance abuse.

For more information on the program, call (978) 665-4178.

Gamblers just betting on trouble

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compulsive gamblers.

But among college students, about 9.5 percent will have a problem with gambling, and an additional 4.5 percent will become compulsive gamblers.

"This means about 14 percent of college students will have some kind of problem with gambling in their life," Forman said.

"If you're looking at the problem-gambling segment, some say 'I learned my lesson.' Others will go in and out of problems, and some will spiral downward into the world of compulsive gambling."

Why do students fall into this trap in the first place? There are as many reasons as there are gamblers.

For Davidson it was the love of sports, and the desire for money.

Luckily, there are places to go for help.

The Mass. Council on Compulsive Gambling is located in Boston, but will refer people to meetings of groups such as Gamblers Anonymous, which are held in Fitchburg and elsewhere in the



Baseball Hall of Famers hold a fascination for many fans, but gamblers are more focused on the score of tomorrow's game. The council can be reached toll-free at 800-426-1234.

People can also call Gamblers Anonymous directly, at 617-338-6020, for information about local meeting sites and times.

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Fitchburg State College students honored at convocation

by AnneMarie Donahue

Fitchburg State College presented its 22nd annual Honors Convocation on April 22, at 2 p.m. in Weston Auditorium.



Patricia Spakes, vice-president of Academic Affairs, gave the address. The FSC Convocation Ensemble, directed by conductor Dennis Wrenn, played the national anthem.

The departmental awards were the first to be issued, starting with the Academic Affairs Office's Distinguished Scholar Award. This was presented to Leslie E. Adams, Tanya L. Allain, Amy Allaire, Tiffany Sweetser Andersen, Sharon Anne Bernard, Amy Brown, Laurie Canton, Shelly Ceddia, Danica Diaz, Peggy Halter, Seth Hopkins, Margaret Snyder, and Melanie Wittmier.

The Sociology Award for Academic Excellence was awarded to Cindy Sue Matesowicz. Leslie E. Adams won the Kirkpatrick-Percival Award in Psychology, while Stepahnie L. Page was awarded the Roder-Sgan Award in Psychology. Leah V. Rand went home with the Human Services Award, and Greg Dorfeuille won the Grainger Browning Award for community Service. The Criminal Justice Academic Achievement Award was given to David W. Hatton and Mary E. Kubat received Graduate Criminal Justice Achievement Awards.

Richard L. Langford and Marie F. Saball received Outstanding Senior in Biology awards.

Jennifer Moore accepted The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award. Coraly Riveria received the Christopher Hughes Outstanding Senior Marketing Award and Christine Muford took the Mass. Society of CPA, Inc., Educational Foundation Achievement Award. Jennifer Cormier received the Institute of Management Accountants - Outstanding Senior Accounting Award.

The John McNaney Memorial Scholarship Award went to Daniel J. Montville on behalf of the Chemistry

department. Michael Vignale Memorial Scholarship Award went to Bruce A. Dufresne; the Department of Chemistry Scholarship Award went to Francisco J. Atez.

Jessica L. McGowan received the Communications/Media Achievement Award. Graham M. Sousa received the Jacqueline LaCoy Scholarship. Christopher D. Trudeau got the Jacqueline LaCoy Award.

The Computer Science Departmental Award was given to Keith Muzzioli. Walter Beaman received the Computer Information Systems Award.

Kristina McCarthy was awarded the Outstanding Senior in Early Childhood Education. Jared R. Quinn received Outstanding Senior in Elementary Education. Julie A. Primeau won Outstanding Senior in Middle School Education. Outstanding Graduate Student in Early Childhood went to Shelly Amari and Shawna Horgan. Jennifer Fitchel received Outstanding Graduate Student in Elementary School Education. Lynn Thompson for Middle School Education. Outstanding Graduate Student in Educational Leadership and Management was awarded to James Daly.

The Louis P. Shepard Creative Writing Award went to Kimberly J. Rosado. Peggy L. Halter won the English Prize and Brian LaPointe received the Matti N. Antila Poetry Award.

Dorian E. Taylor as awarded the Outstanding Senior in Geo/Physical Sciences award.

Outstanding Senior in Music was awarded to Ricardo Melo. Jeff Lessard won Outstanding Senior in Philosophy, Tiffany Andersen won Outstanding Senior in Foreign Language and Anne Beauchemin received Outstanding Student in the Humanities.

Marc C. Moschella received the Joseph E. Cutler Award and Jay W. Sanicki got The Arthur Purington Award.

Tanya Allain received the Mathematics Departmental Award.

The Grace Gummo Award was given to Patricia Lisle. Rita Bancroft was awarded The Katherine Sehl Award and Christine Menger won The Eleanor Voorhies Award.

Laurie A. Caton received the Alex Donkor Economics Award. Seth M.

Hopkins got the Roger F. Holmes History Award.

Tracy Kolofsky received the Lena Caron Award. David Romanowski was given the Dr. William J. Goldman Award. Kelly chase won the Council for Exceptional Children Award. Barbara Renzi received the Departmental Service Award and Sarah Gola won the Carla Borg Award.

Leslie Adams was awarded the Prize in Women's Studies Minor. The winners of the Leadership Essay were Amy Beaulieu for the first year and Kenneth O. Gibbs for the upperclass. The

Fredrick Douglas Citizenship Award was given to Emmanuel Lewis.

The



Industrial Technology staff was named Faculty of the Year.

Jackie Redlin of Health Services won Administrator/Staff of the Year.

Masspirg received Organization of the Year.

SGA Excellence in Leadership was awarded to Brett Connolly. The Outstanding Seniors male and female were Anne Gilbert and Lorne Winkfield, The Point's own business manager.

Student of the Year was awarded to Jodie DaSilva, next year's SGA president.

The Point

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Point article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

The Point is the student news source of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to the Point becomes the property of the Point.



Horoscopes

As Foretold by Cassandra

Aries You are ready to get out of that slump you've been in for too long! So go ahead and find someone to play hide and go sex (under the covers!) with. An ex seems to be bothered by the fact that you're smiling and happy, don't let it get you down! That's why you dumped their loser butt in the first place. Find some creative artsy friends and spend time with them, they have a lot to teach you about being who you are!

Taurus You're going to be decorating and redecorating to try and hide all those bald spots your room is plagued with! Improving your home is a valueable way to spend time, and money so take it easy! If you are thinking about a career at home don't listen to Sally Struthers, listen to yourself and your desire to go to work in pink fuzzy slipper and a bathrobe!

Gemini You are just a little social butterfly with your letters and your phone calls and your endless streams of emails! And you make it look so good and so easy! Take this to the bank and make it work for you, show the bosses what an effective communicator you are and how much you love that job! Also don't be afraid to spend some extra money to have those nails polished, image is everything darling!

Cancer I have been informed by the spirits that guide me in my horoscopes everyweek that we have some cheap Cancers attendind this school! Same on you, money found is not money earned so if you manage to find a little extra cash waste it on friends and loved ones. Many people believed that saving money you find is a big supertitious no-no! So open up that wallet and let those moths free!

Leo This is Leo's week to show the boss what's what! You better have your facts ready and your notebook open because the higher ups (whether it's a boss or a teacher) isn't taking any of that Leo charm instead of work. This is a tough audience, but if you keep your cool and prove your worth your salt then you'll pull thru better than fine - possibly promoted!

Virgo Due to power struggles in the air it might be advised that you step onto the backstage where you'll be needed. Nobody likes to work, but they all love to bask in the glory! Just if you see spaks flying, it's best to stay out of the line of fire! But keep in mind, no matter how spectacular you are you cannot accomplish everything by yourself, deligate responsibility to another person if you feel overwhelmed.

Libra You will be the voice of reason this week as you watch friends and those around you fall apart. There are some really bad ideas floating around your circle of friends, potentially dangerous and you must be the one to remind them of the legal ramifications of their actions! People who are too scared to speak up, but none the less regret the decision will appreciate your saving their hides! Just stick to your guns!

Scorpio This is a time for you to make a stand and to deliver your ideas to the world full force! Don't worry about being too loud, because if you're not no one will ever hear you! This is your time to shine and if you do it well there could be some rewards waiting for you down the road a bit! So just go out there and have fun, and don't listen to the negative people, they never really say anything anyway!

Sagittarius You are the jolly jokester lately, just becareful that super charged sense of humor doesn't get you into hot water with friends and family! Let those who need to be serious! You are a favorite among your friends because you can go from hysterical to penive in .2 seconds!

Capricorn So you've never been a fan of showoffs, when someone starts putting a value on themselves higher than others you feel like like leaving the room before something really bad happens. Well the good news is you're going to be around new people, the bad news is they will be those types of people. If you can keep from killing them this will be a learning situation for you!

Aquarius It will come as a shock to find out that a strong friend needs your support right now, but that's not a sign of weakness as much as sincerity. The astrologica set up for everyone this week shows high pressure zones over love and family, so don't be surprised if you're hosting a cry fest and complaint session this weekend!

Pisces You've got he potential to be a star on the work place or at school! Everything comes pretty easy for you lately so use it to your advantage! Give everybody something they can talk about! Others in trouble may doubt your ability, but that's there problem and don't feel obligated to prove your skill by fixing their problems, too many to number!

Mr. Free Advice

Because advice is always worth the price you paid for it!

This column is a parody and not to be taken seriously. On a personal note, you should not ask anyone who works for The Point for advice, we're not good people.

-AnneMarie Donahue, Editor-in-Chief

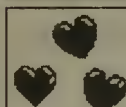
Dear Free Advice Person,

I'm dating these two guys and I can't decide who I should stay with. I can't date them both because that wouldn't be fair to either of them, or to myself, but still I really like them both! Doug is a nice guy with a great car and lots of money that he likes to spend on me. Rich is really sweet and sends me little paper flowers all of the time, but he's broke and we can't really go out and have fun. I love spending time with Rich because he really listens to me and we can talk so easily. Doug isn't into talking much, he just wants to go out and party all the time and have a lot of fun, but sometimes he treats me like I'm an object and I don't like it. Who do you think I should stay with?

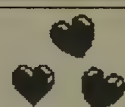
Hopeless in Herlihy

Dear Hopeless,

It's as plain as that rhinoplasty nose on your face that you should stay with Doug! He's got the money and the car! Rich may be a nice guy, but you don't need or deserve one of those! Sweetie, I live in Herlihy too and I'm going to guess that you were too drunk to remember last week when you asked me to do things to you that I can't talk about in this column. You are an object, so shut up and enjoy the ride until your looks fade and you're left with nothing but three stupid kids and a mortgage!



Personals



#1 Single White Male, 18, brown hair brown eyes. Slightly nuts, enjoys hanging from trees by one hand or foot. Likes doing back flips, sommersaults, handstands, etc., in the middle of the quad. Not a psychopath! Seeking available female who doesn't scare easy, 5'to 5'6" with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys the outdoors, and seeks someone with similar interest. If interested, contact The Point, x3647.

#2 Single white female, looking for nice looking guy with a good attitude, athletic not lazy. I'm an outgoing freshman looking to have fun with others. Must have good sense of humor and nice car! If you are interested, please contact The Point, x3647.

#4 Single ethnic female, looking for single male. Neurotic biology student, 5'. I enjoy many styles and types of music and movies. I even like country music. If interested, please contact The Point, x3647.

#3 Single White male, 19, blonde. Desperate! Looking for anyone, anyone at all! Biped helpful, mammal preferred. Loves long talks, long walks and obsessively stalking my truest loves. Please call me, please! For more info. please contact The Point, x3647.

#5 Broad Shouldered SWM, junior, seeks nicely dressed female w/average build for fun and relationship. I like to cuddle and spend time together in quiet places (ex. beach, campsites, etc.) but I also like to party! Reheads need not apply. If interested, please contact The Point, x3647.

A day in the life of a blind person

by Joey Davolio

Although I felt fine when I woke up this morning, I knew something was wrong - something was drastically different.

I sat up in bed and rubbed my eyes. I looked down toward the floor, searching for the small wooden desk chair I use every morning to climb down from my top bunk.

But I couldn't see the chair. I couldn't see a thing. I don't mean the chair was missing; it was still there. I could feel it with my foot, I just couldn't see it with my eyes. I was blind.

Actually, I was blindfolded.

I had volunteered to "adopt a disability" as part of a program put on by FSC's Disability Awareness Committee in recognition of April being Disability Awareness Month. I had agreed to blindfold myself before I went to sleep, and then spend a day "blind," to gain an understanding of the types of challenges and obstacles that blind people face every day.

So, I woke up and couldn't see a thing.

I couldn't see the bright-green numbers of my digital alarm clock, so I was extremely relieved to remember that I had set the alarm for 8:45. I was even more relieved that my alarm clock had actually gone off.

After hitting the snooze button two or three times, I guessed it was about 9 a.m., but I rolled over and hung my head down to ask my roommate below to confirm the time. It was 9:05.

Since my first class isn't until 9:30 a.m., I usually don't roll out of bed until about 9:10. I soon discovered I could have used a lot more time.

I found the chair with my foot. Slowly and carefully I climbed down from my top bunk and got my feet on the ground.

I slowly stumbled through the junk on the floor, which I really wished I had picked up the night before. As I was making my way to the bathroom I heard a soccer ball roll across the room and hit the closet door as it bounced off my foot.

I tripped over the footrest, which for some reason was now blocking the door, and I knocked off the books that were on my desk as I tried to regain my

balance. By the end of the day, I realized how fortunate I've been to be able to take my sight for granted. I have the utmost respect and admiration for people who have to spend every day of their lives the way I spent one unforgettable day of mine.

balance.

Once I had finally made it to the bathroom I felt around and found the sink. Then I found my toothbrush (at least I hope it was mine).

I rummaged through the things on the counter and narrowed my options for the toothpaste down to two possibilities. I took the 50-50 chance and went with the tube on my right.

I applied the contents of the tube to the toothbrush and brushed my teeth, relieved that I had chosen correctly.

I then proceeded to wash my face after locating the bar of soap, which someone had left in the shower. I realized it would be useless to try to comb my hair in the mirror, so I decided to play it safe and just wear my hat.

After making it back to my room I picked up the clothes that I had left on the couch the night before, and put them on for the second day in a row.

I was afraid that if I tried to find something else in my closet, I would pick out an outfit that I would regret wearing.

I was attempting to squeeze my feet into my roommate's sneakers when he informed me that it was already 9:32. Getting ready was taking a lot longer than usual.

On my way downstairs I hung onto the railing for dear life and slowly, but without too much trouble, made my way downstairs and met a friend to walk to class with.

When I got to the bottom of the stairs she said hello, so I knew I was going to the right person. She led me to McKay, not warning me about a single puddle the entire way. Trust me, I hit all of them.

She didn't hold my hand, but I made sure that I stayed close to her and listened to what she had to say. We

walked very slowly and every once in a while I would reach out and hold onto her shoulder.

Walking from Mara Village Building 5 to McKay never seemed to take so long.

People would say hi to me as I walked down the street, but I probably only recognized half of the voices. Even though I was concentrating extremely hard just to walk without hurting myself, I made sure I was polite and said hello back to everyone.

When I finally got to class my friend helped me into an empty seat.

My teacher came up behind me and put her hand on my shoulder, probably not knowing what to say to me.

She asked me what I was doing, so I explained to her why I was blindfolded.

I hadn't figured out exactly how I was going to take notes, but luckily my friend helped me out. My teacher allowed her to take the notes and I just listened.

It was strange just sitting there. Even though I heard voices, I felt alone.

I couldn't see who was there and couldn't read what the teacher was writing on the board - it was frustrating.

Everything I did the rest of the day seemed to involve a long and tedious process, just as getting out of bed had been.

By the end of the day, I realized how fortunate I've been to be able to take my sight for granted.

I had experienced life as a blind person, with one important difference: I could regain my sight by simply removing my blindfold.

I have the utmost respect and admiration for people who have to spend every day of their lives the way I spent one unforgettable day of mine.

Student is really going places

by Jessie LaFalam

Many Fitchburg State College students commute, but senior Larry Haile of Salem has taken the concept to a new extreme. Haile commutes nearly three hours each way, every day, on public transportation to attend classes here.

But it's not a big deal to Haile. "It's fun," he says.

It also makes him an expert in the field he hopes to enter after he graduates.

Haile looks forward to working as a customer-service representative for public-transportation systems. Haile, who is sight-impaired, believes this job would allow him to "make sure public transportation is fully accessible to the disabled."

According to Haile, many people do not understand how important this is.

Haile has already begun his work toward making the voice of the disabled heard, serving as chairman of Accessibility here at FSC. If people have problems, they can go to Haile and he will bring them up at the meetings. According to Haile, FSC is "fairly good with accessibility." There is some problem with "outdoor ramps that just don't work," he says, but there are usually alternative routes.

Haile has made plans to travel to San Diego at the end of this month to attend a leadership program for people with disabilities.

And in the more distant future, Haile plans to travel to England and to eventually make his home there. "The English are more aware of the need to provide access for the disabled," he says. In the U.S., he says, "people just don't listen."

Haile is planning to spend the Fall 1999 semester in England; this will be his third trip there.

"The English are more aware of the need to provide access for the disabled. In the U.S., people just don't listen."

Lives, loves drown in alcohol

by Joey Davolio

Brian McQue. Student at Michigan State. Twenty-first birthday. DEAD.

Like many college students throughout the United States, Brian chose to go out to a bar to celebrate this milestone in life.

Among Brian's crowd, tradition stated that the 21st birthday would be celebrated by downing 21 shots of alcohol in the course of the evening; one shot for every year of life.

On the night of Nov. 5, Brian exceeded this by consuming 24 shots of alcohol (24 ounces of hard liquor) in less than two hours.

Unfortunately, Brian didn't make it through the night. He never got to enjoy being 21. He won't get the opportunity to brag to his friends, or for that matter to ever see them again. Brian, like many other students before him, is now just another statistic; a

painful memory for his friends and family. Was it worth it?

Most people would probably say no, but according to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, at least one college student dies every weekend as a result of alcohol abuse.

According to the American Psychological Association, alcohol abuse is a drinking pattern that results in adverse consequences that are both significant and recurrent. Alcohol abusers may fail to fulfill major school requirements or family obligations. Alcohol abuse also affects such things as friendships and relationships. And, according to a published NCADD report, "Hundreds of people die each year from acute alcohol intoxication, more commonly known as alcohol poisoning."

The major cause of alcohol-related deaths among students is alcohol poisoning, which is sometimes linked with

fraternity pledging. According to the NCADD, approximately 86 percent of college students who live in a fraternity house binge-drink on a regular basis.

Signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning include unconsciousness, slow breathing, and cold, clammy, pale or bluish skin. A person in this condition must receive medical help immediately.

Americans must wait for the age of 21 to receive the privilege of being allowed to purchase and drink alcohol. This is because they must be old enough to understand the responsibilities that come with this privilege.

People who drink alcohol must take responsibility for themselves and the people they are with. They need to know their limit and be smart enough to stop before they lose control and become a statistic, as Brian did.

A birthday is supposed to be a time to celebrate one's life; not to mourn one's death.

Trench-coat Mafia

by Rondi Erin Bloom

Incendiary men
Zombies open fire, engulf life.

"You!"
No turning point for prejudice, no looking back
"You" could be popular, athletic, black..

What's to learn?
On four-gun Tuesday, fifty burn.

I was just waiting, he said,
For the sharp pain in my head.

Even the books aren't refuge.

The song and dance: it's music's chance
To score these lives beneath Goth's rants
But, no one takes the blame... not anymore.

Death's too good for them, these incendiary men
For sending eighteen to light
They should be pent for life.
But, no...

These trigger-happy demi-gods
Trampled columbine.

'Hideous Kinky' seems to suit Winslet's style

by Rhalda Jansen

This great new Kate Winslet movie is based on the award-winning novel by Esther Freud. It is in part inspired by Freud's own childhood adventures in Marrakech with her sister and mother. The unusual and attention-getting title is drawn from a children's game of combining adults words that make no sense when put together, but nevertheless make the children laugh.

In 1973, Julia (Kate Winslet) and her daughters move to Morocco in the aftermath of her failed relationship with the girls' father, a successful artist who moved on to other women and got other children. Julia has taken her 6-year-old daughter Lucy (Carrie Mullan) and her 8-year-old daughter Bea (Bella Riza) to Marrakech to enrich their lives with culture and embrace adventure. By breaking away from her comfortable life in London, Julia puts herself and her family in a tight spot. This becomes even worse when her ex-husband keeps neglecting to send support checks.

Julia now has to earn a living for her family in a world very distant from her own. Just when all hope is gone, she meets and falls in love with a street performer named Bilal, and they become

lovers. Lucy sees Bilal as the ultimate father figure, and he becomes Bea's looking glass in her attempts to make sense of a civilization so alien from the one she knows. After

Bilal takes on the father-role in the family, they move on to other places which show them the hidden worlds of Marrakech.

Their journey isn't all fun and games however. They have no money, and have trouble finding their place in the world, seeing they have such mixed cultures. They abandon Marrakech for refuge in Bilal's remote mountain village. Julia feels right at home here, but Bilal is tormented by accusations by the elderly in his village, who accuse him of neglecting his wife. When he announces they have to leave, Julia and her daughters are crushed. Julia is trying to find "the truth" to the deeper



Kate Winslet leaves Marrakech in her latest film.

Anybody who's in for a little adventure and change of pace should definitely check it out!

meanings of life, and believes that she can find this through the Sufi religion. She is trying to break free from the English culture, to find some piece of mind. Eventually, Julia and Bilal go their separate ways but cannot forget about one another.

This movie is a wonderful comeback to the silver screen for Kate Winslet. It contains not only beautiful, authentic footage of the Moroccan way of life in the 1970s, but also tells a great story of a mother's quest to "gift her children with the courage of dreams." Winslet's acting is superb, and Carrie Mullan and Bella Riza bring the entire movie to life. I'm not seeing this movie as becoming as huge as Titanic, seeing it's a European production with more story than special effects, but anybody who's in for a little adventure and change of pace should definitely check it out.

'Duo' reveals twice the talent to delight jazz enthusiasts

by Fred Yackowski

Some jazz purists pine for the golden days of bee-bop, when giants like Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Bill Evans ruled the day.

It's been 30 years since these musical greats had their heyday, and their successors are few and far between.

Charlie Hunter, one of only a handful of young lions on the current jazz scene, may very well be the best guitarist working today.

Hunter's short recording career has produced fine work with artists as diverse as the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy, William S. Burroughs, and T.J. Kirk.

His latest album is "Duo," with drummer-percussionist Leon Parker. It marks the first time that Hunter has recorded in a duo setting.

It's a smart move for Hunter, because this more intimate setting allows listeners to get a glimpse of his eight-string guitar styling.

Hunter once again exhibits guitar

mastery by simultaneously belting out the bass lines and the melodies. Simply expressed, Hunter's playing is unparalleled.

His sound is a cross between John Scofield and Wes Montgomery; fluid, nimble, and harmonically inspired.

Hunter and Parker deliver 10 mid-tempo tracks on "Duo."

Highlights include "Calypso for Grandpa," a departure from Hunter's mostly blues-based compositions; and "Mean Streak," the opening track, which showcases Parker's adept percussion work.

With "Duo," Hunter once again shows jazz purists why they don't need to worry. Jazz is alive and well, especially when his eight-string is on the move.



'Matrix' snares complexity in action

by Fred Yackowski

"The Matrix"

Directed by the Wachowski brothers
Starring Keanu Reeves, Lawrence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, and Joe Pantoliano

4 stars out of 5 stars

The Wachowski brothers have hit the big time. Although their last outing, the very slick lesbian-gangster flick "Bound," failed to make them household names, "The Matrix" is bound to change that.

"The Matrix" is mind-numbing, adrenaline-pumping, apocalyptic entertainment; think somewhere between "Alice in Wonderland" from hell and a really scary "Terminator." This action wonder is the only special-effects flick anyone needs to see while waiting for Lucas to unload "The Phantom Menace."

Keanu Reeves stars as Neo, a cyberpunk caught up in a tangled web of conspiracy. "The Matrix" is where Neo must go to save the world. Although Reeve's performance is run-of-the-mill,



it doesn't matter. The Wachowski brothers surround him with fine acting from Lawrence Fishburne and Joe Pantoliano, a well thought-out storyline, and enough special effects to send anyone's brain into sensory overload.

If you're looking for an action flick with some smarts, this is the one. "The Matrix" should be in theaters all spring long, until "Star Wars" blows into town.

College film throws viewers a clever 'Curve'

by Robin E. Sandberg

Video: "The Curve"
3 1/2 out of 5 stars

College can be a stressful time in a person's life but "The Curve" is a movie that shows just how stressful that college can be.

For a year that has had many thrillers like as "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and the "Scream" series, there didn't seem to be many who-done-its. "The Curve" is one.

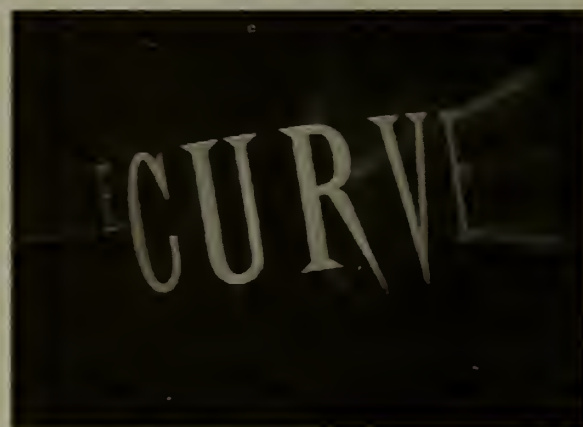
When I found this film in the video store, I had never even heard of it before. It stars Matthew Lillard ("Scream"), Michael Vartan ("Never

Been Kissed"), Randall Batinkoff and Keri Russell ("Felicity").

This movie is about a group of the usual - or not so usual - college students who want more than anything to get into Harvard and seem to be willing to go to any measure to do it.

When they realize that the suicide of your roommate guarantees students a 4.0, friends Tim (Lillard) and Chris (Vartan) decide to take action.

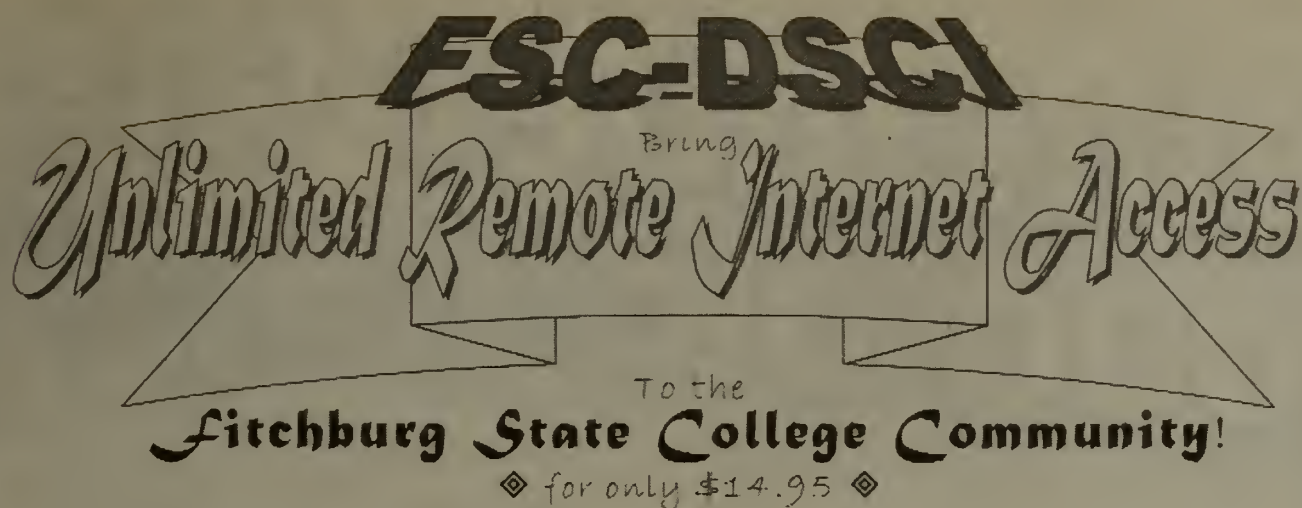
They make a plan to kill their roommate Rand (Batinkoff) - who isn't exactly the nicest guy - and make it look like a suicide. Though complications arise when Rand's girlfriend commits suicide, his body turns up missing.



Watching this movie, you will come to realize how little you can trust the people and how mentally disturbed people can be.

"The Curve" was entertaining. Not only did it have a surprisingly imaginative plot, but you never really realize what is going on until the last minute. If you are looking for a creepy suspense that just might get you thinking, then "The Curve" just may be the choice for you (of course you may find yourself questioning your friends in the end).





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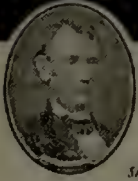
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U M A S S

Boston

Track Falcons rock at last meet of the season

by Rhalda Jansen



Laura and Cheryl in another great hand-off

The Track Falcons had a very eventful day at their MASCAC tournament this past Saturday. The MASCAC league includes all the State Schools in Massachusetts, schools like Salem, Bridgewater, and of course the home team of the day, Westfield State. It was a day for sun and wind burns, a master videographer, ice packs, illegal hand-offs, track coughs, and a few titles. Like the indoor track meet, the Allience Conference was also included in this day, so athletes could even score twice. The Allience includes schools like Eastern Connecticut and Keene State.

The men had a busy day, Mark and Mr. Delanski were all over the track again to do their usual ten events. The men's 4x100 ran a smashing race and came in first with a time of 44.89. Too bad the home court didn't 'notice' that illegal hand-off they made, and found it necessary to cheat to win. Shaun "and yes he can dance" Grier took in his second MASCAC title of the year, by win-

ning the pole vault. Corey "hot stuff" Medeiros took the second spot along with Mike Seguin. Great job guys! Mike also threw 125-feet-3 in the javelin, and jumped 5-feet-6 in the high jump. John Rogers threw 31 feet in the shot put, and 74-feet-05 in the hammer, that's a shot with a chain, for those who are visualizing a real hammer!

The men also had a few runners in that smashing 3000 steeple chase race. Derek Delanski was the first to finish for the Falcons, by almost breaking eleven minutes. He was followed by Mr. Smack Daddy himself; Brian Walsh in 11:27. This was the first time Brian ever broke twelve minutes, so "Awesome job there Walshy!" FSC's third runner was another Brian, but this time the amazing Brian "Shaggy"

"Great job this season, I enjoyed it, and till next year!"

Tremblay, and yes you can give his name a little French twist! Brian finished for the team, got mistakenly put as number one in the results, communicated with the camera during his race, and is really happy it's all over again. Don "Mel talked to me!" Kenneally finished his 1500 in 5:18.25, with his shirt to keep his shoulders warm I must add. Derek ran this 1500 in a smashing 4:40.24, and also got smacked around in the 800. He ended up with a time of 2:09.82.

Eric "Mr. Lap dance" Nolan ran his leg in the 4x400 even faster than his

open 400, and that doesn't happen every day. He placed third in the open 400 with 52.25, and also had to compete in a few other events due to a mix up in scratches. Darren "Mr. Camera man" Medeiros also ran his leg in the 4x400 in a faster time than his open 400, and jumped 18-feet-4 in the long jump. Corey "thanks for the comments on my door!" Supernor threw 30-feet-9 in the shot and also flung a few other objects into the infield. Mark "my place?" Teator ran a 17.38 in his 110 meter high hurdles, attempted some jumps, fell over a few hurdles in the 400 hurdles "No he didn't have to actually clear 400 hurdles, whatever!" and jumped 40-feet-2 in the triple. John Oosterman helped us out during this meet by throwing 62-feet-11 in the discus and 74-feet-5 in the hammer. Another John, this time Mr. Moore, threw 82-feet-7 in the discus, 79-feet-9 in the hammer, and a nice 31 feet in the shot.

Ethan Brown showed us his stuff in the long and triple jump, and ran 12.23 in the dash. Jude Joujoute won the long jump with 21-feet-4.25, came in second in the 200 dash with 23.34, and also placed in the 100 dash. Awesome job Jude, and great job in the 4x100 also! To finish this great list of men up, we have Boudou "fluffy sweatshirt" Bingay, who ran a great 2:12.69 in his 800, and 4:45.43 in his 1500.

The women also had a good day, with unfortunately a few injuries. Co-captain Cheryl "thanks for running the 4x400 girl!" Briggs ran her 200 in 32.12, and was lead-off-leg for the season-record-breaking 4x100 relay team. The relay women ran an awesome 54.60 in their 4x100. Laura Brown just took off in her 200, and ran a great 29.34. Jane is still suffering from that car door, but along with Jackie "It's so windy out today!" Savoury did participate in the relay. Jackie took second place in the 100 dash, and will be going on to the ECAC's before she leaves us for many months to enjoy Barbados.



Co-captain Stephanie Kretas ran 32.83 in the 200, threw a little shot, and actually raced a open 400. She finished in 1:12.52, so great job girl!

We also had a few middle distance people at work over the weekend. The Dutch One rounded up her MASCAC season with her most coveted, third title of the year, so she's now three for three. She won her 800 in 2:27.36, and will accompany Jackie at the ECAC's and New England Div. III Championship. Christie A. Galindez finished strong in her 3000 with a time of 11:40.66, followed by her sister with 12:02.14. Christie E. had already run the 1500 in 5:27.29 that day, so she had a right to be a tad tired. Joanie "They were tickling me!" Gillen shattered her best time of the season by running 19.35 in the 100 meter high hurdles, and ran a 1:19.95 in the 400 hurdles, "Way to work those hurdles girl!" Another great race was run by Kelly Gorey, who took seconds of her best 800 meter time, by running 2:51.51. Kelly also set the school record for the pole vault, by winning this event. She is looking forward to breaking it again real soon.

This meet was the last regular meet for our Track Falcons, so I just wanted to say: "Great job this season, I enjoyed it, and till next year!" If you have any questions about joining the track team for next year or want a work-out for the summer, please contact coach Jellison at ext. 3494, or visit him at McKay.



Joanie Gillen and assistant coach Stacy Barrett